

Ninety-First Regular Session

WEDNESDAY, December 28, 1994

The chief clerk makes the following entries under the above date.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

State of Wisconsin

Department of Natural Resources

December 21, 1994

To the Honorable the Legislature:

On September 30, 1994, the first version of the Clean Water Fund (CWF) Biennial Finance Plan, reflecting the Department of Natural Resources biennial budget proposal to the Governor, was submitted to your office. The plan included narrative on a shortfall in federal funding for program operations that is projected to develop during the 1995-97 biennium. The Natural Resources Board, in September, directed DNR staff to prepare additional information on options to address the funding shortfall and present options for consideration of the Board at their November, 1994 meeting.

On November 11, 1994, the Natural Resources Board approved the inclusion of a loan administration fee on federally funded loans in the Department's proposed 1995-97 biennial budget. This fee is intended to address a serious federal funding shortfall that is likely to occur in the 1995-97 biennium.

This fee is proposed as follows: The annual fee amount would be 0.2% of the outstanding balance of all federally funded loans for the 1995-97 biennium. Under this proposal, interest amounts on federal loans would be decreased by the amount of the fee. In effect, this will allow the Clean Water Fund to use a portion of current repayments from federally funded loans to fund program operations. Thus, the total cost to municipalities of borrowing from the CWF would not increase. The fee is proposed to be implemented after the 1995-97 Biennial Budget is enacted on all existing and future recipients (including recipients receiving transition, post-transition and hardship loans) that have or will receive federal direct loan disbursements. It is estimated that the fee will generate \$910,000 in the 1995-97 biennium which represents less than 10% of all interest paid by recipients of federal loans.

Proceeds of the proposed fee would fund 7 existing FTE currently supported by the federal grant, and provide administrative support for DNR Clean Water Fund staff. It is expected that legislation will be introduced before Congress in the next session that would effectively reduce Wisconsin's federal grant, producing a potential shortfall of \$894,000 for CWF administration during the next biennium.

The Natural Resources Board approved this fee as a short-term solution to address a shortfall expected to occur during the 1995-97 biennium. Projections of federal funding after the 1995-97 biennium indicated that

the shortfall amounts may increase greatly. Implementation of a short-term fee would allow CWF staff to gather more background information on Congressional action on Clean Water Act re-authorization and related capitalization grant appropriations in future years. Implementation of a short-term fee will also allow CWF staff to consult with municipal officials and others regarding a long term funding solution.

If you have any other questions regarding the Biennial Finance Plan, please contact Paulette Harder at 266-0836.

Sincerely,
Paulette J. Harder, Director
Office of Governmental Relations

State of Wisconsin
Department of Natural Resources

December 19, 1994

To the Honorable the Legislature:

In accordance with 1993 Wisconsin Act 16, Section 912.(2), I am submitting to you a report prepared by IBM Consulting Group in collaboration with the Department of Natural Resources which evaluates our contracting for cleanups through the Environmental Repair Program and the Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Program. Section 912 of the Act specifically required the Department to:

“contract with a person from outside the department to review the department's policy and procedures for contracting for work related to environmental cleanups. The department shall require the person with whom it contracts to prepare a report that includes the results of the review and any recommendations for changes designed to lower costs of cleanups and to allow better prediction of those costs and to submit the report to the legislature, in the manner provided in section 13.172(2) of the statutes, and to the governor, no later than September 1, 1994.”

We Hope that the recommendations made in the report will lead to more effective and efficient contracting for cleanups. We have scheduled discussions with district and central office staff to initiate implementation of those recommendations within our control. Many of the recommendations will require legislative action and I will work with the Governor and the Legislature to incorporate these recommendations into our cleanup programs.

I look forward to hearing your comments on this report. If you have any questions or require any additional information regarding this report, please call Bob Strous at 266-2699. Thank you.

Sincerely,

George E. Meyer
Secretary

Medical College of Wisconsin

December 19, 1993

To the Honorable the Legislature:

On behalf of the Medical College of Wisconsin, it is my pleasure to submit the annual report on the activities of our Department of Family and Community Medicine.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of 1991 Wisconsin Act 39 and provides information about the items specified in the Act.

We believe that both the Medical College and the State have benefited greatly from this joint partnership for family medicine, and we look forward to continuing our efforts to improve Wisconsin's health care system.

Please feel free to contact us if you or your staff have any questions or would like more information about our family medicine program or other activities of the College.

Sincerely,
T. Michael Bolger, JD
President and CEO

John E. Midtling, M.D., M.S.
Chairman, Department of Family
and Community Medicine

State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction

December 23, 1994

To the Honorable the Legislature:

As required by 1993 Wisconsin Act 355, enclosed is a report on Cooperative Educational Services Agencies. Specifically, 1993 Wisconsin Act 355 states the following:

The State superintendent of public instruction shall conduct a study of cooperative educational service agencies, including their mission and their governance. By January 1, 1995, the state superintendent shall submit a report, including his or her findings and recommendations, to the appropriate standing committees of the legislature in the manner provided in section 13.172(3) of the statutes.

Please forward the report to the appropriate standing committees.

Sincerely,
John T. Benson
State Superintendent

Referred to the committee on Education.

SENATE CLEARINGHOUSE ORDERS

The committee on Human Resources, Labor, Tourism, Veterans and Military Affairs reports and recommends:

Senate Clearinghouse Rule 93-158

Relating to fire department health and safety standards.

Modification requested:

Ayes, -- Senators Zien, Lasee, Drzewiecki, Breske and Decker;

Noes, 0 -- None.

David A. Zien
Chair

The committee on Health, Human Services and Aging reports and recommends:

Senate Clearinghouse Rule 94-120

Relating to the percentage of income standard used by courts in determining child support obligations.

No action taken.

Carol A. Buettner
Chair

The committee on Financial Institutions and Cultural Affairs reports and recommends:

Senate Clearinghouse Rule 94-157

Relating to definitions, securities registration exemptions, securities registration and disclosure standards and requirements, securities broker-dealer, securities agent and securities investment adviser licensing requirements and procedures, fee-related provisions and securities licensing forms.

No action taken.

Senate Clearinghouse Rule 94-93

Relating to designating alternative accounting guidelines for the preparation of financial statements for certain governmental issuers of securities.

No action taken.

Alberta Darling
Chair

MOTIONS UNDER SENATE RULE 98 for December 1994

A certificate of congratulations by Senator Plewa for Andrew Carl on receiving the Eagle Scout Award.

A certificate of congratulations by Senator Chvala for James R. Wall, Jr. on being awarded a Rhodes Scholarship.

A certificate of congratulations by Senator Rude for Richard Ekern on receiving the 1994 Wisconsin School Bus Driver Award.

A certificate of commendation by Senator Farrow for Mr. Kirk A. Drusch, CHA has been recognized with the Wisconsin Innkeepers of the Year in the over 100 room category.